

Remarks

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the claim amendments above and the remarks set forth below. Claims 9-14 and 16-19 remain in the application. Claims 1-8, 15 and 20 are canceled. Claims 9, 14, 16 and 19 are amended. Claim 11 was previously presented. Claims 10, 12, 13, 17 and 18 remain unchanged.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15 and 20 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Base claim 9 is amended to include the limitations of dependent claim 15. Base claim 16 is amended include the limitations of dependent claim 20. As a result, it is respectfully proposed that amended independent claims 9 and 16 are in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Claim Objections

Claims 6, 14, 15, 19 and 20 were objected to due to informalities. Claims 6, 15 and 20 have been canceled. Claims 14 and 19 have been amended to remove the informalities. Applicants respectfully request that the objection to the claims be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103

Dependent claims 10-14 being dependent on and further limiting amended independent claim 9, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the above amendments and remarks.

Dependent claims 17-19 being dependent on and further limiting amended independent claim 16, should be allowable for that reason, as well as for the additional recitations that they contain. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the rejection of the claims in view of the above remarks.

Having fully addressed the Examiner's rejections it is believed that, in view of the preceding remarks, this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly then, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (818) 260-4599, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled.

No fees, other than those discussed above, are believed due. However, if a fee is due, please charge the additional fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this amendment is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

1/25/2010
date


Vincent E. Duffy